

Chairman Phil Mendelson at
the request of the Mayor

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To approve, on an emergency basis, a multiyear Reimbursable Agreement for more than \$1 million with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to develop a bus rapid transit system on H Street and Benning Road between Union Station and RFK Stadium named the “Gold Line”.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
That this bill may be cited as the “Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 Fiscal Year 2027 and 2028 Reimbursable Agreement Emergency Act of 2026”.

Sec. 2. (a) Pursuant to section 451(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 803; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.51(c)(3)), the Council approves the multiyear Reimbursable Agreement for more than \$1 million with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to develop a bus rapid transit system on H Street and Benning Road between Union Station and RFK Stadium named the “Gold Line”. The Mayor submitted on September XX, 2026 a reimbursable agreement with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) to perform planning, environmental, and outreach, through preliminary (30%) design, of Phase 1 of the Gold Line which will support the development of the H and Benning Street corridors, Union Station and the area surrounding the existing RFK Stadium.

(b) The Council approves the maximum total expenditure under this multiyear contract with WMATA in the amount of \$5,000,000.

Sec. 3. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement provided by the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788; D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).

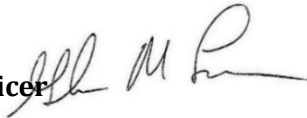
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: September 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
Authority Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Phase I Multiyear Reimbursable
Agreement Emergency Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Draft Bill as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 2,
2026

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the revised fiscal year 2026 budget and the fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

In 2025, the District and the Washington Commanders football team reached an agreement for the Commanders to return to a stadium in the District for the team's home games and act as a catalyst for ancillary development under the Robert F. Kennedy Campus Master Plan. In addition to the stadium construction and residential, retail, and commercial developments surrounding the stadium, significant transportation improvements are required to support the stadium and development.

In July 2026, the WMATA Board of Directors authorized the WMATA General Manager to enter into a multiyear reimbursable agreement with the District to support the development of the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase I through the 30 percent design phase. Subsequently, the District and WMATA agreed WMATA would contract for the planning, environmental reviews, and community engagement with \$5 million provided by the District. The agreement covers the design of the Gold Line BRT from Union Station to Benning Road, N.E. at the entry point to the RFK Campus. The agreement establishes that the 30 percent design and environmental reviews should be completed by the third quarter of calendar year 2027. The agreement acknowledges that funding has not been

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Phase I Multiyear Reimbursable Agreement Emergency Act of 2026," Draft Bill as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 2, 2026

identified for final designs, permitting, construction, operations, and maintenance of the Gold Line BRT.

The bill approves the multiyear reimbursable agreement between the District and WMATA and approves the maximum of \$5 million included in the capital budget to be expended on the agreement.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2026 budget and proposed fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2032 capital improvements plan includes \$5 million¹ to support the agreement with WMATA to complete 30 percent design on the Gold Line BRT. The bill's approval will allow the Mayor and the Director of the District Department of Transportation to execute the multiyear reimbursable agreement with WMATA.

¹ The District Department of Transportation will reimburse WMATA from its Bus Priority and Efficiency Initiative capital project which is funded at over \$95 million over the six-year capital improvement plan.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**BRIAN L. SCHWALB
ATTORNEY GENERAL**



PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION

LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Tomás Talamante
Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs**

**FROM: Adele El-Khoury
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division**

DATE: September 11, 2026

**SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of the “Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 Fiscal Year 2027 and 2028 Reimbursable Agreement Emergency Act of 2026” and the “Fiscal Year 2027 and 2028 Reimbursable Agreement with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 Approval and Payment Authorization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”
(AE-26-445)**

This is to Certify that the Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 262-6402.

Adele El-Khoury

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